

ORIGINAL

Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street,
Phoenix, AZ 85007

October 12, 2015

Re: SunZia Transmission, LLC

Docket Number L-OOOOOYY-15-03 1 8-001 7 1

To Whom it may concern:

For a host of reasons, it is not in the State of Arizona's best interests to permit the SunZia transmission project. From its inception, SunZia has been promoted as a renewable energy project to transmit "stranded" wind-generated power from eastern New Mexico to the supposedly lucrative energy markets of California. For reasons that have become obvious as the project has dragged on, SunZia is at best a pipe dream and at worst a scam that is not in the best interests of the State of Arizona.

- 1) As promoted from its inception until the project achieved a NEPA permit, Arizona was little more than an obstacle on the way from New Mexico wind fields to supposedly insatiable energy markets of southern California. Over and over again, the proponent declared that California, not Arizona, was the primary destination of this project.
- 2) Arizona meanwhile has been developing its own renewable energy sector based on solar energy. It is not in Arizona's best financial interests to permit out-of-state energy projects to compete with its own burgeoning solar energy industry. That industry provides in-state construction and operational jobs that dwarf those that would potentially be provided by SunZia.
- 3) Wind energy technology has stalled, with only greater turbine size offering greater efficiency, and this limited by transportation logistics from turbine factories to wind fields. Solar energy technology, by contrast, continues to become more efficient and cost effective. That trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.
- 4) Conflicts with DOD in New Mexico have required undergrounding portions of the project which have driven up the potential costs to levels that will be unlikely to be financed by private investors. The only hope is that what was billed as a merchant line will, in the unlikely event that it is ever built, become just another federally subsidized pork barrel project.
- 5) This project would cut a new infrastructure path through Arizona's diminishing and irreplaceable wild lands, degrading Arizona's spectacular landscape and environmental gifts, both of which are an increasingly important priority for its current citizens and a significant reason why people desire to move here.
- 6) If the renewable energy aspect, which was the primary reason the project was granted NEPA approval, is not financially viable, then the only logical conclusion is that the project has, from its inception, been little more than a ruse to build transmission capacity from the proponent's permitted,



0000164227

RECEIVED

2015 OCT 13 P 2:10

AZ CORP COMMISSION
Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

OCT 13 2015

DOCKETED BY

though as yet unbuilt, Bowie power plant.

7) Finally, powerline security is compromised when routed across long stretches of unpopulated wildlands. Arizona is in the fortunate position of having its primary solar energy sites located in the southwestern quadrant of the state, in relatively close proximity to the state's major energy markets along the Sun Corridor.

For the same reason, since the El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline bisects the southwest quadrant, it affords an opportunity to co-locate natural gas power plants with solar energy facilities in relatively close proximity to Arizona's energy markets. The proposed SunZia Transmission Project does not do this.

For the above reasons, the proposed SunZia Transmission Project is not in the best interest of Arizona and I ask you to deny approval of this project.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Omick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

David Omick
6146 N. Canyon Road
Benson, AZ 85602